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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

INTERIM REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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Health Department,
Latham House,
Cross Lane,
Newton-le-Willows.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my interim Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the Urban District during 1944. The Report is still in an abbreviated form but this year I have reverted to the pre-war arrangement of a separate section for the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The ban on the publication of vital statistics has been lifted and these figures therefore are included for the year, with a tabular summary of the principle rates from 1938 to 1944.

It will be seen that the Birth Rate shows an increase and the Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate show little change. There was no death during the year attributable to maternal causes.

The Registrar-General's mid-1944 estimate of the resident population is 20,460; the 1931 Census figure was 20,150.

Infectious Diseases:

430 cases of infectious disease were notified, a decrease of 277 from 1943, largely due to the comparative absence of measles during the year.

My prediction that whooping cough would be prevalent was fully borne out, there were 192 cases notified and one death, mostly during the early months of the year.

Scarlet fever, 97 cases, was the highest incidence for twelve years but was of a mild type with no deaths. A similar sharp rise occurred throughout the country as a whole.

Diphtheria, 13 cases, showed a further decline and was the lowest incidence for eleven years. Two deaths occurred in non-immunised children; one due to a very virulent infection and the other an unfortunate missed case which was admitted to the Isolation Hospital in a dying condition, having been treated at home as mumps for ten days.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Immunisation during the Monday sessions of the Child Welfare Centre has continued steadily and practically all the mothers attending the Centre now accept immunisation as a normal procedure when their children reach the age of one year.

It is estimated that 58% of the pre-school children and 75% of the school age children have been immunised, giving a total of 68% for the District. The percentage is lower than last year mainly because it is based on a new estimate of the child population made by the Registrar-General and not previously available.

This degree of immunisation may prevent any large outbreak of diphtheria but it is not high enough to remove the danger from the District. Propaganda and education of the public must continue and I should like to see the efforts of the officials implemented by members of the Council on all possible occasions.

Isolation Hospital:

Although there was an increase in admissions to 279 during the year, it cannot be regarded as more than average;

the increase was largely due to the high incidence of scarlet fever in the Haydock Urban District. Admissions from Newton-le-Willows were only 18 more than in 1943. Seven deaths occurred in the Hospital, five from this District and two from adjacent districts.

By keeping two wards closed throughout the year the staff available has proved adequate and the Matron, Mrs. Crockett, has continued to conduct the administration in her usual highly efficient way.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Maternity and Child Welfare Department is in a flourishing condition and attendances again showed an increase. The condition of the children is remarkably good for the fifth year of war and I suggest the credit for this is due to the generous provision of milk and other foods for children by the Government, increased family income, and Clinic supervision.

A sharp increase in the number of institutional confinements occurred again; in fact almost 40% of the births during the year took place in hospitals or nursing homes. Whilst it must be admitted that part of this tendency is due to difficult home conditions, expectant mothers are realising the advantages of hospital confinement and few will willingly revert to domicilary midwifery when home and housing conditions become more normal.

Certain of the recommendations of the Ministry of Health regarding the care of premature infants have been adopted during 1944. Padded garments are available for domicilary cases, birth weights below 5½ lbs. are notifiable and hospital arrangements are available for premature babies if necessary. Other recommendations will be introduced when possible.

The Council approved the Lancashire County Council scheme for the care of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children in Moral Welfare Homes.

It is to be hoped that the rapidly increasing importance of Maternity and Child Welfare work will be fully realised and that with the coming of Peace, the Council will adopt the almost universal procedure of being represented at National and regional conferences by their Maternity and Child Welfare Officer.

Wartime Nursery:

The Nursery has done well during the year and has been highly commended by inspectors; it has been approved as a Training Centre by the National Association of Children's Nurseries and Miss Thomas, who succeeded Mrs. Kendall as Matron, and Mrs.Booth, the Warden, are to be congratulated on this recognition of efficiency. Mothers making use of the Nursery are unanimous in their praise of the care and training of the children, and the improvement in health and habits.

The number of children on the register has not exceeded 75% of capacity, but it is serving a most useful national purpose and could be filled to capacity if open to the children of mothers needing relaxation or relief during illness in the family.

I recommend that when the future of the Wartime Nursery comes to be considered, the interests not only of the working mothers, but of the working-class mothers and their difficulties will be duly appreciated and provided for.

In conclusion I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Health Committee, the Hospital and Child Welfare Committee, the officers and staffs of the Departments, Hospital and Nursery, the County Midwives, and the ladies of the Voluntary Committee for their support and assistance during 1944.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

S. K. APPLETON M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS. 1944.

Birth rate 17.25 per 1,000 population
Infant death rate 54.8 per 1,000 births
Maternal death rate nil per 1,000 births
Death rate 11.58 per 1,000 population.

Summary of Vital Statistics 1939 - 44.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Birth Rate	14.8	16.	16.	15.8	15.8	17.3	17.25
Death Rate	10.9	11.1	12.8	13.6	10.7	11.6	11.58
Inf. Death Rate	39.	57.	42.	84.	61.	71.	54.8
Maternal Mort.	0	2.85	5.71	5.76	5.98	2.70	0

Principal Causes of Death

Cancer.....39
Heart Disease.....63
Bronchitis..... ...13
Cerebrael Haemorrhage...25

Infectious Diseases	Cases notified	Rem. to Hospl.
Scarlet fever	97	66
Diphtheria	26 ÷	26 ÷
Measles	91	-
Whooping Cough	192	-
Pneumonia	12	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	6 ø	6 ø
Erysipelas	4	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-
Gastro-enteritis		1
Enteric fever	1 x	1 x
	430	102

÷ 13 cases were found not to be Diphtheria
ø 3 cases rediagnosed in Hospital
x 1 case rediagnosed in Hospital.

Tuberculosis - new cases notified Pulmonary - 25
Non pulmonary - 12

General.

There was little change in the number of houses, rateable value, and other statistics relating to the district.

2. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff. There was no change in the personnel of the department during the year.

Ambulances. There was no change in the year.

Laboratory facilities, Clinics, Hospitals serving district, and Cleansing services.

Laboratory facilities were extended during the year by an arrangement with the St. Helens Emergency Laboratory.

An order was placed during the year for a new Dennis Refuse Collecting Vehicle but the Ministry of War Transport's sanction was delayed for several months and the vehicle did not come into service until April 1945.

3. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There has been no important change during the year. Seventeen bacteriological examinations of the water supply were made and all reports but one were satisfactory. A repeat sample upon the unsatisfactory report was satisfactory. The water continues to be supplied from the deep wells and is chlorinated; all dwellings are supplied by mains directly to the houses except in two instances and the supply is constant. Complaints are becoming more frequent of cases where supplies are restricted in quantity by the obstruction of service pipes by a sandy sediment.

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

The following table shows the number of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years, immunised under the Council's Scheme at 31.12.44.

Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No.	162	165	163	132	154	164	171	2	8	200	214	218	200	267	226

622 (50%)

2032 (62.3%)

2654 (58.9%)

The addition of 400 children immunised by private practitioners gives the following approximate total percentages for the District:-

1 - 5 years 58%
5 - 15 " 74.5%
} 1 - 15 years 67.7%

5. PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

The following specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination:-

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Diphtheria	62	40	102
Typhoid & Para-typhoid	-	5	5
Tuberculosis spinal fluid	2	1	3
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	1
	65	46	111

6. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Patients admitted to Hospital during 1944.

	Newton	Haydock	W'gton Rural	H.M. Forces	Total	Deaths
Diphtheria	13	13	1	-	27	2
Suspected Diph.	13	7	-	-	20	-
Scarlet fever	66	110	24	3	203	-
Sc.fever with T.B. Meningitis	-	1	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal Mening.	2	-	-	-	2	-
Suspected " "	3	-	-	1	4	-
Tuberculous "	1	-	-	-	1	1
Measles	-	2	5	1	8	-
Suspected Measles	-	-	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	3	-	-	4	-
Chicken Pox	-	1	-	1	3	-
Mumps	-	-	-	1	1	-
Glandular fever	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	1	-
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	-	-	1	1
Cerebral Haem.	1	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	102	138	31	8	279	7

In dealing with the above cases the ambulance travelled 2949 miles in the year.

7. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The 1944 totals are followed by the 1943 and 1942 figures for comparison.

Attendances	1944	1943	1942
Ante-natal	766	768	526
Post-natal	7	4	4
Child Welfare Clinic	8195	7721	6418
Total	8968	8493	6948
Confinements in Institutions			
Council's Scheme.. ...	65	51	48
Private	76	68	11
Public Assistance ...	3	9	59
Total cases	144	128	118
Health Visitor's visits			
First visits	370	360	298
Other visits	3446	3214	3210
Expectant mothers ...	88	113	201
Infant life protection	12	23	31
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	12	21	-
Re Immunisation	215	417	460
Miscellaneous	25	37	93
Total	4168	4189	4293

Cod liver oil and fruit juices under the National Scheme were issued through the Clinic as in 1943.

Two garden parties and two Christmas parties for mothers and children were organised by the Voluntary Committee and were greatly enjoyed.

Fewer mothers and children have been referred to the Lancashire County Council owing to the restrictions of war conditions.

Milk.

Proprietary Dried Milk 13,000 pkts. sold.
(Ostermilk, L.Brand, Cow & Gate,
Trufood, Vitasac, Hemolac, M.O.Food).

Virol, malt, glucose, vitamin preparations and supplementary foods have also been supplied.

8. WARTIME NURSERY:

The average monthly attendance for day and night was as follows:-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Day	16	12	17	23	24	28	19	15	24	25	24	16
Night	5	7	6	7	7	9	4	4	5	7	8	5

Highest day attendance 31 night attendance 12

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Inspector's section of the Health Services for 1944.

Comparison with pre-war reports reveals how war conditions have affected the work of the Department, and increased attention to Rodent Control under the Ministry of Food's Scheme has taken up much time. Under this scheme a Rodent Operative was appointed, centred at and controlled from Latham House, to serve the areas of Haydock, Golborne, and Newton-le-Willows U.D's.

The short supply of labour and materials has interfered with quick compliance with notices served and as a result many extra visits and more correspondence has been necessary to obtain even carrying out of comparatively minor repairs. Many houses have so deteriorated that demolition at the earliest possible opportunity is the only satisfactory remedy.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal has been maintained satisfactorily in spite of labour and transport difficulties. A return to Controlled Tipping is urgently necessary to prevent the spread of combustion and vermin on the tip (both have been very troublesome during the year), and to render the reclaimed land useful for other purposes on completion of the tip. Salvage has demanded much attention but the annual yield, following the national trend of salvage collections, has decreased.

I desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, Officers of the Council, and particularly the staff of my Department, for their continued and wholehearted assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. M. BOOTH. M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

1. HOUSING.

The activities of the department in this connection have continued to be restricted by control of labour and materials and we have again been obliged to confine requirements mainly to the abatement of nuisances and dangerous conditions. There have been no new houses built in the course of the year.

2. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the district and all butcher's meat is supplied from Central Depots. Regular observation is kept and special visits are made where necessary to food premises, market stalls, dairies, cowsheds, and vehicles. Samples of milk supplied to schools are taken on behalf of the County Council and eight such samples were taken in 1944. Four samples of milk have also been examined bacteriologically and for Tubercle bacilli. Two samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory; one was positive for Tubercle bacilli. Unsatisfactory reports were referred to the vendors and the Health Authorities for the areas of production.

The following food samples were submitted for analysis under the Food & Drugs Act, and all were reported upon as "Genuine",

although one cocoa samples was stale and mouldy but the balance of the stock was voluntarily surrendered for disposal.

Article	Informal	Formal	Total
Bacon	1	-	1
Semolina	1	-	1
Margarine	3	-	3
Lard	3	-	3
Butter	4	-	4
Milk	-	10	10
Tea	1	-	1
Sugar	2	-	2
Salt	1	-	1
Cascara	1	-	1
Cordial	2	-	2
Oatmeal	2	-	2
Coffee	1	-	1
Sacharine	2	-	2
S.R. Flour	1	-	1
Cough Cure	1	-	1
Mincemeat	1	-	1
Dried Fruit	4	-	4
Mixed Spice	1	-	1
Cocoa	2	-	2
Beer	1	-	1
Total	35	10	45

The following foods were specially examined during the year:-

Examined and found fit for food:-

		approx. weight T	C	Q	Lbs.
18	Pigs	1	3	2	23
8	Cans Chopped Ham			1	20
183	Cans Meat Preparation		1	2	14
11	Cans Corned Beef			2	16
40	lbs. Cheese			1	12
	Total	1	6	3	1

Examined and found unfit for food:-

3	Cans Spam			2¼
4	Cans Brisket Beef			16
1	Can Ox Tongue			6
2	Cans Pig Tongue			5
1	Pig carcase, 10lb.Pork		1	2	17
6	Cans Salmon			6
16	Cans Other Fish			8
1	Can Rabbit			2
541	Cans Evaporated Milk		3	2	13
2	Cans Vegetables			2
23	Cans Pork Luncheon Meat			1	24
4	Cans Chopped Ham			24
30	lbs. Beef			1	2
58	lbs. Macaroni			2	2
8	Cans Stewed Steak			8
1	Can Corned Beef			6
2	Cans Peas			2
135	Meat Pies			1	6
	Lard			2¾
2	Cans Pork Sausage Meat			3
	Oranges		2	2	8
	Lentils			1	5
	Sausage Rusk			2	-
2	Cans Bean in Tomatoe			2
39	Cans Meat		2	1	1½
7	Cans Beans in Brine			7
	Ham and Bacon			7¼

(List continued overleaf)

		approx. weight T	C	Q	Lbs.
	Fish Cakes				1
	Cheese				22¼
	Raisins				25
	Wet Fish		3	-	-
5	Cans Soup				5
	Sausages				1½
	Rolled Oats			3	1½
18	Cans Jam				27
1	Jar Jam				2
17	Jars Pickles				12
1	Can Ulster Roll				2
9	Cans Beef Loaf				7
	Total	18	1		11

Total approximate weight specially examined

2 tons 5 cwt. 0 qr. 12 lbs.

Food Treatment and Decontamination.

The Scheme for dealing with food affected by enemy action was maintained.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES - CONTROL.

Enquiries were made upon notification and disinfections carried out where necessary. The number of cases notified appears earlier in the report.

Primary visits by Inspectors	132
Secondary visits	88
Disinfections - Rooms I.D.	54
" Others	13

Miscellaneous Disinfections:

	articles
Infectious Disease	2334
Other L.As. I.D.	1656
Civil Def. Services	28
Billeting Officer	152
Library Books	93
Miscellaneous	88
Total	4351

Disinfection of rooms and bedding is carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. Bedding is always disinfected in cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, cerebro-spinal fever, etc., and rooms are treated where requested.

4. VERMIN CONTROL.

All complaints of vermin are investigated and advice is given to tenants and landlords. A Rodent Operative was appointed during the year; the district was surveyed and treatment of the sewers was commenced in the latter part of the year. The following special visits were made:-

Verminous Premises	30
Rat Infestations	53
Premises treated-vermin...	8
Rooms treated -vermin...	22
Articles specially treated	10

The following tables indicate the nature and number of visits made, defects noted and remedied, and notices served:-

Total number of visits made - 2593.

Analysis of visits made

Dwellinghouse - Housing Act...	5
Dwellinghouse - Public Health Acts ...	194
Re-inspections-Public Health Acts ...	570
- Housing Act...	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds	27
Courts, Passages	48
House drainage	260
Rat Infestations	453
Milk Sampling	12
Ashpits and Bins	94
Cesspools, Septic Tanks...	4
Tips	67
Keeping of Animals	4
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	4
Meat Inspection...	16
Other Food Premises and Stalls	155
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	37
Factories	23
Water Sampling	26
Food & Drugs Act	37
Offensive Accumulations...	4
Schools	9
Verminous Premises	30
Infectious Disease - Primary Visits...	132
- Secondary " ...	88
- Owners ...	24
- Contractors ...	20
- Officials ...	3
- Miscellaneous ...	8
Shops Acts	10
Salvage	82
Food Inspection	43
Bakehouses	5
Public Conveniences	2
Licensed Premises	8
Miscellaneous	79
Complaints received and investigated...	199

Sanitary Improvements

Downspouts disconnected from drains ...	11
Drainage - Repairs and improvements ...	2

In the following table of defects specified in notices and the table of notices served, the figures under columns "Complied" and "No. of defects - remedied" includes compliance, and remedy of defects upon notices which were outstanding at the end of 1942.

Analysis of Defects specified in Notices.

Type of Defect	P.H.A.		Housing Act	
	Noted	Remd.	Noted	Remedied
Choked drains	70	67		
Defective, insuff. or unsuitable drainage	18	11		
Defective sinks	11	6	2	-
Defective and/or insufficient waste pipe	16	9	1	-
Defective water pipe	39	32	2	-
Insufficient water supply	46	43		
Defective water supply cisterns	2	2		

Type of Defect	P.H.Act. Noted	P.H.Act. Remedied	Housing Act Noted	Housing Act Remd.
Defective sash cords etc.	16	38	2	-
Defective window frames	16	8	2	-
Defective external cills	5	21	1	-
Absence of or insufficient ventilation	4	5	4	-
Defective floor paving	7	4	3	-
Damp floor paving	3	1		
Damp & defective floor paving	2	2		
Defective floor boards and under-timbers	17	7	1	-
Wallplaster - damp	9	3	1	-
- defective	41	13	3	-
- damp and defective	16	3	6	-
Defective brickwork and pointing of walls and chimney stacks	31	7	3	1
Defective roof and chim.flashings	88	10	4	-
Defective ceiling plaster	25	5	1	-
Damp ceiling plaster	2	2		
Damp and defective ceiling plaster	7	6		
Defective and/or insufficient paving & drainage-yards & approaches	16	15	2	1
Defective yard walls and fences	15	6	2	-
Defective yard gates	9	8		
Defective closet - structures	24	27	2	1
- roofs	15	6		
- cisterns	3	-		
- basins & joints	10	2		
Insanitaryashpits	-	2		
Defective dust bins	21	56	3	1
Absence of refuse store	5	-		
Absence of/or defective and/or insufficient - gutters	75	34	4	-
- downspouts	7	-	2	-
Rainwater pipes ventilating drains	24	20	2	-
Waste water " " "	-	1		
Defective and/or choked drain vent shafts	11	4		
Defective and/or choked flues	5	-		
Defective fire-grates	11	5	1	-
Defective ovens and ranges	12	-		
Defective washboilers (structures & grates)	12	3	1	-
Filthy yard surfaces	1	3		
Dirty walls and ceilings	2	-		
Defective stair treads	-	-	1	-
Absence of sufficient washing accommodation	2	3		
Verminous conditions - rats, mice	7	7		
- bugs	4	3		
Bakehouse Limewashing	-	1		
Cowsheds - Limewashing	5	2		
- structure	1	1		
- drainage	1	1		
Miscellaneous	30	15	18	1
Totals	817	529	74	5

Notices Served

	No. Served	Premises affected	Complied By O/W	Complied By Coun.	Defects Ntd.	Defects Rmd.
Public Health Acts Informals	367	367	251	10	817	529
" " " Statutory	54	54	23	10	77	36
Housing Act Informals	4	4	-	-	74	5
Re Nuisances	10	10	8	1	33	12
Ashpits and Bins	9	9	6	5	9	11
Drainage	18	18	4	-	18	4
Downspouts venting drains	2	2	1	-	2	1
Defective closet accomm.	8	8	2	1	8	3
Power of entry	1	1	1	-	1	1
Yard paving	6	6	1	3	6	4

The compliance with informal notices includes those cases in which statutory notices were necessary to secure such compliance, and compliance with informal notices by the Council in default means that the compliances were effected following relevant statutory notices.

6. GENERAL AMBULANCE.

Journeys in 1944 840
Number of patients carried..... 1354
Number of miles in 1944
- Daimler..... 498)
- Humber .....10206)- 11908
- Hired vehicles.. 1204)

7. LETHAL CHAMBER.

Times used 318
Cats destroyed 171
Dogs destroyed 167

8. SALVAGE.

The following materials have been dealt with in the year in association with the refuse collection and disposal service.

	T	C	Q
Waste Paper	89	12	1
Bottles and Jars	6	5	1
Rags	5	19	3
Tins		18	-
Scrap Iron	6	5	2
Non Ferrous Metal		18	-
Rubber	2	13	2
Bones	2	8	2
Glass Cullet	14	12	-
Miscellaneous	weight unknown		